

**HAMPTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM
OCTOBER 23, 2006 – 7:00 PM**

PRESENT: Virginia Bridle-Russell, Chairman
Ben Moore, Vice-Chairman
Rick Griffin
James Workman
Bill Lally
Mark Gearreald, Interim Town Manager
Maureen Duffy, Administrative Assistant

REGRETS:

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Moment of silence in honor of Mrs. Barbara Daly, who died early this morning, and Manchester Police Officer Michael Briggs who died in the line of duty.

Chairman Virginia Bridle-Russell called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

I. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Mr. Moore reminded everyone that the General Election will be on November 7th and that voters may register at the Town Clerk's office. He also noted that Absentee Ballots can be obtained from the Town Clerk's office as well. Mr. Moore announced the Hampton Beach Area Commission meeting will be held at the Police Station at 7PM on November 26.

Mr. Griffin suggested that a notice of the General Election be posted on the sign outside of the Town Hall.

Chairman Bridle-Russell noted that residents may register at the polls prior to voting from 7AM to 8PM at Marston School.

Mr. Gearreald announced that Mr. Schwotzer's mother-in-law, Barbara Dayly died early this morning. The memorial service will be held on Sunday, November 5th at 3PM at the Hampton Methodist Church. Mrs. Dayly was a Hampton resident and the secretary for the Winnacunnet High School for many years.

The budget books will be available for the Budget Committee by November 1st.

II. APPOINTMENTS

1. **Deputy Fire Chief Chris Silver – Pandemic Preparedness Memorandum of Understanding and acceptance of \$1,400 in program funds under and confirmation of amount of unanticipated funds required for notice under RSA 31:95-b, III as being any amount less than \$5,000.**

Deputy Chief Silver and the Town Health Officer, Kevin Schultz addressed the Board. Deputy Chief Silver said that the Town has been asked to participate in the New Hampshire Pandemic Preparedness program. Within the local area there are 17 communities that are already involved in regional planning. As part of the program, the Town would be responsible for designating a location where vaccines and other medications would be distributed during a pandemic outbreak.

Funding for the planning portion of the program is accessible through the NH Health & Human Services and will be managed by the Town of Exeter for all of the 17 communities. Jane Hubbard has been hired to develop a regional plan and it is likely that she would be involved in creating one for Hampton.

To become officially involved in the program a memorandum of understanding is required to be signed by a designated town official.

Town Attorney / Interim Town Manager Gearreald suggested that the Board vote on adopting RSA 31:95-b, III as a Board procedure when accepting grant money any amount less than \$5,000. This would involve posting the anticipated dollar figure to be accepted in the agenda rather than posting in a local newspaper.

Mr. Moore MOTIONED to accept the concepts as outline in RSA 31:95-b, III. **Mr. Griffin SECONDED.**
VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Mr. Lally MOTIONED to authorize Mr. Gearreald to sign the Pandemic Preparedness Memorandum of Understanding. **Mr. Griffin SECONDED.**
VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Mr. Workman MOTIONED to accept the \$1,400 grant funds from the NH Health and Human Services an effort to develop a pandemic preparedness plan. **Mr. Griffin SECONDED.**
VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

III. MINUTES – OCTOBER 16, 2006

The minutes of October 16, 2006 stand as read.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

1. INTERIM TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

We have received this week from DRA the official notification of the 2006 Tax Rate. This will enable the second half tax bills to go out by November 1, and be due by December 1.

Chairman Bridle-Russell reported that the new rate will be \$19.31 per thousand of assessed valuation, made up of \$7.96 for the Town, \$10.23 for the schools (local and state), and \$1.12 for the county.

The Town rate is up \$1.12 per thousand over last year and the public should know that only 2 cents of that increase is due to increases in the operating budget. According to figures provided by Finance Director Schwotzer, 30% of the \$1.12 per thousand is due to the special warrant articles passed by voters at the 2006 Town Meeting; 17% of the increase is because the Board of Selectmen do not have the ability this year, as they did last year, to use the fund balance to decrease taxes; 16% of the increase is due to our not counting unanticipated grants as revenues, which was done last year without including an offsetting budgeted expenditure, thereby artificially lowering what was raised for taxes; and 34% of the increase is due to not being able to include this year the revenue from the Hurd Farm grant that artificially lowered tax rates last year.

Chairman Bridle-Russell noted that we have approximately \$35 million more in assessed property value to share in the bearing of the property tax burden. Due to this increase in tax base, each property is bearing approximately 10 cents less per thousand in property taxes than would have been the case without this growth. She also noted that over \$18 million in increased tax base has come about in the last two years due to development at Hampton Beach. This represents just the beginning in the return on our townspeople's investment of the \$14 million plus in infrastructure improvements at Hampton Beach.

There will be NH Department of Transportation representatives present at the next Selectmen's meeting, seeking input from local leaders on the rehabilitation of the Hampton River Bridge. Interim Town Manager Gearreald asked the Board if State Representatives should be invited to attend. The Board was in agreement of the invitation and also suggested that representatives from the Police and Fire Departments be in attendance.

The Planning Board conducted a public forum on growth last Wednesday, October 18, 2006. A number of citizens showed up to voice their concerns about the adverse effects they perceive to quality of life as a result of growth. Some people expressed the view that growth in Hampton is rampant. According to Mr. Gearreald he has not seen data supporting that point of view.

Mr. Gearreald commended the Building Department, Assessing Department, and Planning Department for the hard work they did to produce actual statistics as to growth in Hampton over the last 4 years. These statistics show that in each of the last 4 years, the growth in number of new residential units is less than 2% per year. In fact, for this year, it is less than 1%. Our growth rate in terms of number of units is definitely slowing. The Planning Board may be approving plans for more units, but they are not necessarily being constructed.

Building Inspector Kevin Schultz has recommended to the Planning Board that it explore imposing additional impact fees upon new units to cover the additional burdens they place upon fire, emergency, medical services, police, recreation, and public works, similar to the impact fee now in place for schools.

Flags have been flown at half mast since Wednesday of this week in honor and memory of Manchester Police Officer Michael L. Briggs, who was killed in the line of duty. His funeral will be this Saturday. A number of our officers will be in attendance, along with officers from around the State.

Approximately 19 resumes have been received in response to the latest advertisement for the Town Manager position. The Selectmen are in the process of reviewing the resumes.

Last week the Public Works Department started paving the streets that were authorized by the 2006 Town Meeting vote on Article 12. (Streets in article – Academy Avenue, Brown Avenue, Carlson Road, Huckleberry Lane, Hurd Road, King's Highway, Longwood Drive, Mill Road (north of Watson), Moulton Road, Palmer & Sicard, Presidential Circle, Towle Farm Road, Trafford Road, and Windmill Lane.)

Mr. Gearreald received additional comments regarding the Winnacunnet Road/Park Avenue intersection from Highway Superintendent Frank Swift. He has passed these comments along to Kevin Madden of Appledore Engineering.

BOARD'S RESPONSE TO THE MANAGER'S REPORT

None

OTHER OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Moore mentioned that the Board received a draft copy of the finance report for the Beach Infrastructure Project. Though it is not in final form it appears that there is approximately \$500,000 left that has not yet been contracted for. Mr. Moore is hopeful that this dollar figure will be enough to cover the construction contract on the streets West of Ashworth. Mr. Gearreald explained that the bid packages must first be submitted to the NH Department of Environmental Services (DES) for its review and approval. The design is done by the Fay, Spofford & Thorndike (FST) engineer and the entirety of the bid package will be submitted to DES by the end of the week. Once the package is approved by DES the bid packages will be sent out to potential vendors.

V. NEW BUSINESS

1 - 2007 BUDGET REVIEW – FINAL REVIEW

The Board reviewed Debt Service and Personnel Administration. Total personnel administration is up 15.77%. The majority of the increase is the result of an increase in employee separation costs, the sick leave buy-back program, and retirement. The numbers are mandated and are nondiscretionary.

Liability and general insurance is up 6.88% since additional new equipment has been purchased. Other insurance which includes health, life, unemployment, workers compensation and NHMA dues are up by a total of 16.99%.

The Total Municipal Debt Service is \$3,422,679. Mr. Workman noted that the final payment for the \$7.8 million sewer bond will be made in 2006.

Mr. Gearreald pointed out that when the mandated expense of insurances is removed, from the operating budget the overall increase of the 2007 budget is less than 5%.

The operating budget grand total for 2007 is \$25,735,006.

Many of the adjustments to the budget were due to the following: heating fuel, health insurance, hydrant rental, regular wages and retirement.

Mr. Moore noted that the Board instructed the department heads to present a needs based budget and suggested that the presented budget go forwarded to the Budget Committee without further amendments.

Mr. Lally reported that last week's Budget Committee meeting was very positive and they plan on discussing budget adjustments with the Board of Selectmen.

Mr. Griffin MOTIONED to pass the presented 2007 budget to the Budget Committee for their review. **Mr. Moore SECONDED.**

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Chairman Bridle-Russell asked if a vehicle list from all departments could be provided to the Budget Committee before they begin their review process.

2 - SEPTEMBER FINANCIALS

September financials will be discussed at next week's meeting.

Mr. Griffin asked if the Board would reconsider the price of leased parking at the beach. Many of the business owners and Precinct members are concerned about the recent increase in cost. The subject will be placed on next week's agenda and parking lot supervisors will be invited to attend.

Public Works Director John Hangen said that the new scales at the Transfer Station will be installed before the end of the year. Mr. Hangen said that bid packages have gone out and they are considering three different bidders

He also reported that the needed repairs and upgrades to the Waste Water Treatment plant will be done in the spring of 2007.

Mr. Gearreald requested a non-meeting immediately after this meeting, regarding a few legal issues and the Town Manager search.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Consent Decree Paquin vs. Hampton

Mr. Gearreald mentioned that the Board at a prior meeting approved the settlement. The Consent Decree is simply a document incorporating the terms agreed to.

Mr. Griffin MOTIONED to sign the Consent Decree Paquin vs. Hampton. **Mr. Moore SECONDED.**

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

VII. - PUBLIC COMMENTS

Business owner, Dick Paquin thanked Mr. Griffin for bringing the issue of leased parking in the beach area to the attention of the Board. According to Mr. Paquin the price of leased parking has increased drastically over the past five years from \$330 to \$900 for the Ashworth lot. He believes that passing the cost onto his customers will be an additional expense and deterrent for tourists to come to Hampton. In addition he questioned why he is taxed on the leased parking spots. Mr. Gearreald explained that lease parking spaces are taxed in the same manner that leased land is taxed. It was suggested that the Town Assessor should be at next week's meeting to discuss the taxation of leased land and parking. Mr. Griffin suggested that Skip Windemiller be invited to discuss the subject at the next meeting.

VIII. - CLOSING COMMENTS:

Mr. Griffin MOTIONED to have a non-meeting immediately after the Selectmen's meeting. **Mr. Moore SECONDED.**

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Griffin MOTIONED to adjourn the meeting at 8:05PM. **Mr. Moore SECONDED.**

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Chairman